

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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EA/P - MR SMITH (DRAFT)
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON COUNTERSPY ARTICLE

1. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR DECEMBER 23 NOON
PRESS BRIEFING ON "COUNTERSPY" ARTICLE STORY ON DON GREGG:

QUOTE:

QUESTION: THE NY TIMES THIS MORNING REFERS TO REMARKS
ATTRIBUTED TO A FORMER CIA STATION CHIEF IN SEOUL, DON
GREGG, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PARK CHUNG HEE GOVERNMENT
IS UNSTABLE AND JEOPARDIZES US INTERESTS. DOES THE DE-
PARTMENT SHARE THAT VIEW?

ANSWER: OUR POLICY TOWARD KOREA HAS BEEN STATED MANY TIMES.
THE IMPORTANCE AND SUBSTANCE OF THAT RELATIONSHIP REMAINS
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UNCHANGED.

QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED
TO MR GREGG?

ANSWER: I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT I

HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE OFFICER CITED STATES THAT THE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM IN TEXAS ARE INACCURATE, DISTORTED AND TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT.

QUESTION: THE TIMES PIECE SAYS THAT THE KOREANS HAVE EXERTED MUCH "PRESSURE" ON US SINCE THE APPEARANCE OF THE COUNTERSPY MAGAZINE ARTICLE IN WHICH THESE VIEWS FIRST WERE EXPRESSED. IS THIS TRUE AND CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING MORE ON THIS ASPECT OF THE STORY?

ANSWER: WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH PRESSURE.

QUESTION: HAVE THE KOREANS DISCUSSED THE ARTICLE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OR WITH OUR EMBASSY?

ANSWER. YES, AND WE HAVE REPLIED AS ABOVE

QUESTION: THE TIMES PIECE ALSO SAYS THAT THE VIEWS ATTRIBUTED TO GREGG PARALLEL THOSE IN A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT BY A SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL. CAN YOU CONFIRM THIS AND PROVIDE ANY DETAILS?

ANSWER: WE DO NOT COMMENT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ON ARTICLES THAT PURPORT TO BE BASED ON CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS.

2. NO REPEAT NO QUESTIONS ASKED ON SUBJECT.

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